

DIAGNOSTIK DER CHIRURGISCHEN KRANKHEITEN. Von Dr. E. ALBERT.
Vierte gänglich umgearbeitete anlage. Vienna, 1887, Alfred Hölder,
New York, G. E. Stechert.

THE ART OF DIAGNOSIS OF SURGICAL DISEASES.

This book is well known in its former editions. In thirty-seven chapters the author contrasts the principal forms of surgical conditions and injuries with special reference to differential diagnosis. Occasionally a note as to prognosis or as to an indication for treatment is interspersed.

As far as the subject matter is concerned we may find the same in the textbooks of surgery. But here the subjects of similar aspect are grouped together, and each difficulty surrounding the diagnosis is separately dwelt upon,

The work is written in a masterly manner, and in an attractive, lively style, which brings home to the reader the difficult points of the subject.

W. W. VAN ARSDALE.

MEDICAL CLASSICS. E. B. Treat, Publisher, New York, 1887.

A series of twelve small octavo volumes, written by different authors, on a variety of medical topics. Each volume contains an average of between three and four hundred octavo pages. The price of the set is eighteen dollars; any one of the series may be bought separately.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF THE HAIR AND SCALP. By GEORGE THOMAS JACKSON, M.D., Instructor in Dermatology in the New York Polyclinic, etc, etc.; pp. 320. Illustrated.

In the preface the author says he needed a book of this character five years ago, and finding none began the studies which have resulted in this volume. Part I gives the anatomy, physiology and hygiene of the hair. Part II is devoted to the essential diseases of the hair. Part III, parasitic diseases of the hair. Part IV treats of diseases of the hair secondary to diseases of the skin.

Dr. Jackson has given us a most interesting and instructive book; it is true, most of the medical facts contained in it are to be found scattered throughout the different departments of medicine, and the physician has perhaps known them all at various times, but the value of the work consists in the labor, skill and judgment the author has

exercised in collecting all these facts and presenting them in such a way as to give us a complete and exhaustive work on the diseases and proper care of the hair and scalp.

The bibliography is very extensive, and there are a number of drawings and photographs gotten up in good style by the publisher.

INSANITY, ITS CLASSIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT; A Manual for Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By E. C. SPITZKA, M.D., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and of the Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System, at the New York Post-Graduate School of Medicine, etc. Pp. 424. Illustrated.

The publisher announces that this second volume of the series has been recommended as a text-book by a number of leading medical schools in America. This alone might be considered as proof of its excellence. The author's division of delusions into "systematized" and "non-systematized" is a step in the right direction. The beginner in the diagnosis of insanity will be struck by the chaos he finds in the rules for determining whether a person is insane or not, and especially the form of the disease in a given case; every effort, therefore, to introduce order and system into the manner of observing and recording the phenomena presented by the insane deserves our praise.

It is doubtful if the average mortal could ever get a mental grasp of Dr. Spitzka's definition of *insanity*, but if, as some alienists think, the only use of a definition is to puzzle the lawyers, his is a most excellent one. The account of the morbid anatomy of the brain in insanity is fully up to our present knowledge of the subject. The author is right when he deplores the absolute banishment of all mechanical restraint from asylums for the insane. We speak advisedly when we say that, if all the facts could be obtained, it would be found that the amount of mental and physical suffering and curtailment of life, which the abuse of mechanical restraint has wrought, would not be greater than that which is caused by the indiscriminate use of the much vaunted *chemical* restraint, and that we have gained nothing by substituting the stomach pump and hypodermic syringe for the canvas jacket and Utica crib. On the whole, we can recommend this book to anyone wishing a knowledge of insanity as understood at this day.

A COMPLETE HANDBOOK OF TREATMENT, ARRANGED AS AN ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF DISEASES. By WILLIAM AITKEN, M.D., (Edin.) F.R.S., Professor of Pathology in the Army Medical School, Exam-